

many depredations had been committed upon them by the first governors of the regime of "independence."

What is remarkable in the establishment of these missions," says De Mofras, is, "*they cost the government nothing.*" When the missions of Lower California were first founded the viceroy of Spain furnished some assistance. Philip V. gave them in the first years of his reign an annual pension of thirteen thousand dollars, but in the year 1735 the Jesuits added to the capital of their funds by the purchase of productive real estate. In 1767 a lady of Guadalajara, Dona Josefa de Miranda, left by will to the college of the Society of Jesus of that city a legacy of more than one hundred thousand dollars, which the Jesuits, however, refused. This was the beginning of what is known as the "Pious Fund" (*fondo piadoso*). The property belonging to the "Pious Fund of California," with its successive additions, comprised landed estates, including several mines, manufactories, and immense flocks, with more than five hundred square leagues of land, all situated in the province of Tamaulipas. In 1827 the government forcibly seized seventy-eight thousand dollars in specie deposited at the mint in Mexico, the product of the sale of the Arroyo Zarco, an estate of the society, and the "Pious Fund" was also despoiled of immense tracts of land by the Congress of Jalisco.

Under the Spanish government the revenues from the "Fund" amounted to about fifty thousand dollars per year, which paid the salaries of fifteen Dominicans at six hundred dollars each, and forty Franciscans at four hundred dollars each. The balance was used in the purchase of cloth, implements, tools, church accessories and ornaments.

From 1811 to 1818, and from 1828 to 1831, the missionaries, on account of political troubles, ceased to receive their stipends, and including the reve-

nues already seized by the Mexican government, a total of more than one million of dollars was appropriated from the revenues of the Pious Fund, leaving however the capital intact.

On May 25, 1832, the Mexican Congress directed the executive power to rent out for a gross sum for seven years the property of the "Pious Fund," and pay the proceeds into the national treasury. But a second decree of Congress on the 19th of September, 1836, directed that the "Pious Fund" should be placed at the disposal of the new bishop of California (Garcia Diego) and his successors, to the end that these prelates to whom its administration was thus confided might employ it in the development of the missions or in similar enterprises, according to the wish of its founders.

General Santa Anna, Provisional President, now came upon the scene, and on February 8, 1842, deprived the bishop of California of the administration of the "Pious Fund." And this *pious* president administered it so successfully that he sold it in a lump to the house of Barrio and to Rubio Brothers shortly after. The value of the "Fund" was not less than two millions of dollars, and the proceeds were incorporated in the national treasury. This ended the "Pious Fund." Steps were taken some time ago by the archbishop of San Francisco and others to recover at least a portion of this property through our Congress, but the returns have not yet begun to come in.

The missions themselves had not been interfered with to the year 1834, at which time, as has been said, they were in their most prosperous condition. The Mexican government had absorbed the outside property and floating cash belonging to the missions, and now proceeded, in the name of "God and liberty," to "administer" the temporalities of the missions in California.

It was discovered that Spain never